part of the population of Singapore. As laborers, artisans, merchants, miners, contractors, planters, and professional men, they have been largely responsible for the economic development of the region. The British were in possession politically and controlled no small part of the economic life, but the Chinese profited enormously from the peace and prosperity which were the fruitage of British rule. The Chinese have been so important a factor hi the population of British Malaya that in more ways than one they have constituted a special problem: for example, it has been a moot question as to how large a share they should be given in the government.

For centuries the East Indies have known the Chinese. Fairly large migrations took place under the Ming and again after the downfall of the Ming. For some years after the beginning of their power in the East Indies, the Dutch encouraged the Chinese to come, for the presence of the latter aided the development of the islands. When, in later years, the Chinese seemed to have become a menace, the Dutch instituted restrictions and oppressive measures, and in 1740 these culminated in a massacre, centering at Batavia, in which several thousand Chinese were killed. The Chinese continued to arrive, however, particularly after the middle of the nineteenth century, and by 1917 their number in the Dutch East Indies was estimated at seven hundred and seventy thousand, of whom nearly half were in Java. A census of 1930 gave the total as 1,233,856 (749,530 men and 484,326 women) and that of 1940 placed the total at 1,430,680. Thousands were manual laborers in mines and on plantations, but other thousands were skilled mechanics and traders

and many became large landowners and wealthy merchants. To Borneo likewise the Chinese have been going for hundreds of years, and the island now contains an undetermined number of them—possibly between four and five hundred thousand. As elsewhere in the lands immediately to the south and southeast of China, much of the mining and trade is in their hands.

In Australia and New Zealand the chief attraction which first drew numbers of Chinese was gold-mining—although a few had arrived earlier for other purposes. The initial large immigration was in the eighteen fifties. Before long opposition developed, for the Chinese proved competitors to some of the